

# Summary of the Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2015

## Amends HUD's definition of homeless to include:

- Individuals or families who will lose their housing within 30 days (current law is 14 days).
- Unaccompanied youth and homeless families who are certified by HUD Homeless Assistance Programs or public housing authorities as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those temporarily sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, or staying in a motel.
- Unaccompanied youth and families who are certified as homeless by the program director or designee under the following federal statutes:
  - The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
  - The Violence Against Women Act
  - The Health Care for the Homeless program
  - The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (McKinney-Vento education subtitle)
  - The Higher Education Act
  - The Head Start Act
  - The Child Nutrition Act
- Removes burdensome requirements to document multiple moves, length of time homeless, and numerous barriers.

## Amends HUD's grant awards process to enhance local planning, limit federally-imposed priorities, and remove federal restrictions, such that:

- HUD cannot impose priorities among populations, as long as the applicant demonstrates that the project:
  - meets the priorities identified in the local plan; and
  - is cost-effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives in the local plan
- Federal limitations on the percentage of funds that a Continuum of Care may use to serve particular populations are eliminated (current law restricts CoCs from spending more than 10% of their funds on families or unaccompanied youth who are homeless under other federal statutes).

## Amends data reporting requirements by requiring HUD to:

- Make data publicly available on its website, updated annually, to include:
  - a cumulative count of homeless individuals and families
  - a cumulative assessment of HUD homeless assistance funding received by each geographic area
  - the number of homeless individuals and families documented by each collaborative applicant

Include in its annual Report to Congress the data described above, as well as homeless data from other federal programs.

